

# MORNING APPEAL.

Wednesday, June 9 1896

## STATE CONTROLLERS.

California has a State Controller who imagines that he is running the State. The Record-Union says.

Controller Dunn gets another setback in the Courts. The railroad tax money; the interest on the railroad bonds; the granite quarry matters, are all legal subjects in which he has dabbled more or less, and been worsted as far as he has gone; so too in a number of cases where he has refused to permit payments and acts directed by the Legislature. In short, the Controller has been doing his level best to run the State, and has ignominiously failed. The very latest case that has gone against him is that of McKillican the builder. The Legislature ordered payment to be made for the relief of McKillican, who built the Agricultural Pavilion. The Controller declined to obey the law and draw the warrant. McKillican sued, and the Controller, by his attorney Delmas, demurred. The Superior Court of Alameda county now decides that the duty of the Controller is to draw warrants directed "by law" to be drawn. The payment of the claim was directed "by law" to be made, and the Court says that it can see no reason why Mr. Dunn should not obey "the law" and issue his warrant.

Nevada also has a State Controller who by reason of his long holding of office imagines that he is a specially constituted watch dog of the Treasury. For years our Controller has dictated just what warrants should be paid and just what warrants should not be. He once had the assurance to refuse to pay a warrant that the Board of Capitol Commissioners had pronounced a just claim against the State for official advertising in the APPEAL. The case was taken through two Courts and found to be just and equitable. The money was paid. These State Controllers who reach the conclusion that they are specially designed by the Almighty to run the finances of a State, look very impressive and powerful when pompously announcing that they will or will not do certain things. The instant you tackle them in the Courts they prove to be simply ordinary mortals who have made blunders in the State business. It is a mistaken idea that a State Controller is given extraordinary powers over State affairs vouchsafed to no other officer. Most State Controllers grow arrogant with office holding, and people begin to believe that they are elected with extraordinary prerogatives. We believe that the next Legislature should pass a bill defining exactly the rights of a State Controller, and take from the office the power it now claims in direct variance with the rights given the Board of Capitol Commissioners by the Constitution of the State.

## GLADSTONE'S DEFEAT.

The defeat of Gladstone's measure in Parliament is a crushing blow to the hopes of the Irish people all over the world. By the passage the Home Rule party in Ireland had expected to be delivered from the wrongs of centuries. The bill was by far the most important measure that had come up before the British Parliament during the long reign of Victoria. There is something in the political situation which must puzzle Americans. The bill framed for the purpose of giving political liberty to the Irish people was a Government plan entirely, yet the Government is beaten.

The English Government which has been ruling Ireland for hundreds of years is desirous of ceasing this relationship, yet the English people will not allow it to be done. The Anti-Home Rule Party offered Gladstone certain compromises but he declined them all. Had these compromises been accepted we have no doubt that the bill would have triumphed, and what was lacking in the bill as far as Ireland was concerned could have been subsequently supplied.

The friends of the bill evidently counted too certainly on their strength to have refused these overtures, for at the present time the Irish would be better satisfied with half a loaf than no bread.

The defeat of the bill was a singular exhibition of British bigotry

and stubbornness, triumphing over the justice and enlightenment of a more advanced age than England seems to be living in.

The case however is not dead nor need Ireland despair of seeing its hopes for political enfranchisement fully realized.

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